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PAGE 01

PRECEDENCE

26 MAY 73

SAGO [REDACTED]

26 MAY 73

CITE SANTIAGO [REDACTED]

TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR,

A report on the military coup plotting in Chil

1. STATION OFFICER MET WITH [REDACTED] TO OBTAIN HIS ASSESSMENT OF COUP AMBIENCE IN SANTIAGO AT PRESENT TIME. [REDACTED] IS AWARE OF GENERAL THRUST OF REF COUP PLOTTING AND [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT NO ONE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A COUP MORE THAN HIMSELF BUT AT THIS TIME HE SAW NO CLEAR INDICATION THAT A COUP MOVE WOULD OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT IS HIS VIEW THAT THE PLOTTERS ARE STILL WORKING ON THEIR ACTION PLAN AND HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE THEY WILL BE READY TO MOVE. HIS [REDACTED] SOURCES [REDACTED] HAVE REPORTED THAT PLOTTERS HAVE SET 15 JUNE AS DEADLINE FOR HAVING COUP PLAN READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION. [REDACTED] WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT IT IS NOT A TARGET DATE FOR A COUP.

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PAGE 02

26 MAY 73

SAGO

3. AS FAR AS ADMIRAL JOSE MERINO IS CONCERNED, [REDACTED] DESCRIBED HIM AS A "SCAREY GUY" WHOM HE COULD NOT ENVISION TAKING A LEADING ROLE IN ANY MILITARY COUP. [REDACTED] SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE CASE UNLESS HE HEARD IT PERSONALLY FROM MERINO. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MERINO IS PROJECTING IMAGE OF AGGRESSIVE PLOTTER AT PRESENT TIME IN ORDER TO TAKE HEAT OFF JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO EVIDENTLY ARE BEING PRESSURED TO ACT ON THEIR OWN.

[REDACTED] WHO REMARKED THAT MERINO IS NOT READY TO MOVE AGAINST THE GOVT AND HE STILL BELIEVES A SOLID PRETEXT IS NECESSARY BEFORE MILITARY CAN ACT. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT MERINO THOUGHT THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT BE ABLE "TO CREEP" INTO POWER UNDER A STATE OF EMERGENCY SITUATION. IN BRIEF, [REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT MERINO IS ACTING MORE LIKE A GOLPISTA THAN IS ACTUALLY REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS TRUE FEELINGS. [REDACTED] SAID THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS HE HAS NOT HAD ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANY MILITARY OFFICERS DURING THE PAST [REDACTED] MONTHS. HE HAS RELIED ON PEOPLE LIKE [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

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PAGE 03

126 MAY 73

SAGO

TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ON MILITARY MATTERS, HE NOW
BELIEVES THAT HE CAN NO LONGER RELY ON THESE CONTACTS
TO PROVIDE THE "FEELING" FOR THE SITUATION

4. [REDACTED] REPORTED THAT IN MIDDLE
OF LAST WEEK [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT HE HAD PASSED
WORD TO [REDACTED] THAT HE SHOULD KEEP A LOWER PROFILE
AND THAT NOW WAS NOT THE TIME TO ACT, FURTHERMORE, ON
MAY [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] THAT
HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY A GROUP OF UNNAMED ARMY
COLONELS ASKING FOR HIS OPINION ON POSSIBLE REACTION OF PDC
TO A COUP. [REDACTED] REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM THAT HE WAS OPPOSED
TO A COUP AT THIS TIME. [REDACTED] HOWEVER, ADVISED [REDACTED]
THAT PDC PLANNED TO HAVE "DAILY CONFRONTATIONS" WITH THE GOVT.

5. ON THE [REDACTED] FRONT, [REDACTED] STATED THAT THERE
WAS VERY LITTLE EFFECTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN MILITARY PLOTTERS
AND [REDACTED] HE NOTED THAT [REDACTED] HAS BEEN TRYING
WITHOUT SUCCESS FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO SEE [REDACTED] AS
FAR AS [REDACTED] KNOWS, [REDACTED] HAVE ONLY COORDINATED

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	O	[REDACTED]			4
PAGE 04					
[REDACTED] 26 [REDACTED] MAY 73 [REDACTED] SAGO [REDACTED]					

WITH THE MILITARY IN PROVIDING IDEAS AND NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD HELP RUN POST-ALLENDE GOVT, THEY ALSO HAVE PROVIDED THE NAMES OF KEY U.P. LEADERS WHO SHOULD BE ARRESTED IN ANY COUP SITUATION. HE SAID THAT MOST ACTIVITY BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND MILITARY HAS BEEN RUMOR FEEDING. [REDACTED] WENT ON TO STATE THAT [REDACTED] ARE BETTER COORDINATED AMONG THEMSELVES THAN WITH THE MILITARY, BUT EVEN THIS IS A VERY LOOSE AND INEFFECTIVE EFFORT. TO MAKE POINT HE RELAYED INCIDENT BETWEEN [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] FOLLOWING RECENT PUBLIC ^{STATEMENT} ~~STATION~~ BY LATTER, [REDACTED] CALLED [REDACTED] TO REMIND HIM THAT HE SHOULD HAVE COORDINATED HIS STATEMENTS IN ADVANCE WITH [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] REPLIED THAT HE WOULD MAKE STATEMENTS WHENEVER AND ON WHATEVER SUBJECT HE FELT LIKE AND THEN HE HUNG UP THE TELEPHONE. [REDACTED] S POINT WAS THAT WHILE [REDACTED] ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT TO WORK FOR A MILITARY COUP, THEIR EFFORTS TO DO SO ARE A BIT HAPHAZARDOUS.

6. ON OTHER HAND, [REDACTED] STATED THAT WHILE HE DID NOT BELIEVE COUP WOULD OCCUR IN NEAR FUTURE, HE THOUGHT

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ACTION 8

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PAGE 05-05

26 MAY 73

SAGO

THAT SEVERAL FACTORS COULD SUDDENLY CHANGE THAT SITUATION. IN THIS CONTEXT HE NOTED THA ADMIRALS AND GENERALS WERE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM SUBORDINATES TO ACT, THAT THE GOVT MIGHT BECOME AWARE OF PLOT, THUS FORCING PLOTTERS TO MOVE PREMATURELY AND, FINALLY, AN UNFORESEEN INCIDENT (I.E., VIOLENT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN U.P. AND OPPOSITION FORCES) COULD PERCIPITATE MILITARY ACTION.

7. WILL ADVISE ASAP RESULTS OF UPCOMING TALKS.

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